

EDUCATIONAL FACTS.

VALUABLE STATISTICS PUBLISHED.

They Show Great Increase of Institutions of Learning—One Fifth of the Population Now in School.

The report of the secretary of the interior shows that one-fifth of the entire population of the United States is in school—the total being 10,225,000, although the total average schooling enjoyed by the people of the United States does not equal more than 1,000 days for each inhabitant.

Of recent years there has been a large increase in the number of students in colleges and universities. The total in 1871 was 88,894, and in 1898 it was 217,793. In 1872 the proportion was 500 students to every 1,000,000 inhabitants. In 1898 it was 1,210 to every 1,000,000 inhabitants. Considering that the standard of admission to colleges has been considerably raised during that period, Secretary Hiles estimates the number of students at colleges and universities is three times greater than it was twenty-five years ago, and that the number pursuing post-graduate courses is twenty-five times as large as it was in 1872.

Another important and interesting item shows the expenditure per capita of population for public schools has been gradually increased from \$1.75 in 1871 to \$2.02 in 1898, while the expenditure per pupil per year has increased from \$13.20 to \$18.57. The total expenditure for public schools in 1871 was \$69,107,612 and in 1897 it was \$187,320,002. The total number of pupils enrolled in the common schools was very nearly doubled during the last quarter of a century. In 1871 it was 7,661,582; in 1897, 14,052,492. The number of teachers employed in the public schools of the United States in 1871 was 250,025, in 1897, 418,348. The increase in the number of woman teachers has been more rapid than those of men. In 1871 90,393 men and 129,132 women were employed, in 1897 131,380 men and 270,947 women.

A Race Against Fire.

The crew of a steamer from Spain discovered in mid ocean that flames were raging in the hold. For ten days they bravely fought the flames. If men would fight as persistently against disorders of the stomach, there would be fewer premature deaths. The best weapon for such a fight is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters.

During last season from June 1st to September 30th, 6,384 tourists visited Yellowstone Park, of whom 3,437 provided their own transportation, going on horseback, bicycles or on foot.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. The bottle has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

"Mr. Newby, we don't see you at our society any more." "No, I've got into society now."

Catch Cold Easily?

Are you frequently hoarse? Do you have that annoying tickling in your throat? Would you feel relieved if you could raise something? Does your cough annoy you at night, and do you raise more mucus in the morning?

Then you should always keep on hand a bottle of

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

If you have a weak throat you cannot be too careful. You cannot begin treatment too early. Each cold makes you more liable to another, and the last one is always harder to cure than the one before it.

Dr. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Pectoral protects the lungs from colds.

Help at Hand.

If you have any complaint whatever and desire the best medical advice you can possibly obtain, write the doctor freely. You will receive a prompt reply.

Address, DR. J. C. AYER, Lowell, Mass.

Schilling's Best Tea

Japan Ceylon English Breakfast Oolong Ideal Blend

It is made with the finest tea leaves, and is the best tea for the family. It is sold in 100 and 200 cent packages.

WANTED—Case of bad health that is not cured by Dr. J. C. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Pectoral.

IF CLAMANTS FOR PENSION Write to NATHAN HILL, C. O. R. I. D., Washington, D. C., they will receive quick action. A. L. H. V. 2nd 2nd Corps. P. O. Box 100, since 1878.

PENSIONS, PATENTS, CLAIMS. JOHN W. MORRIS, WASHINGTON, D. C. 1000 10th St. N. W. Inquire of him, or of the Pension Office, U. S. Dept. of War.

PISCICURE FOR DISEASES OF THE LIVER, BILIOUSNESS, INDIGESTION, COLIC, CONSTIPATION, AND ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.

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HAD MANY VICTIMS.

HORRIBLE RECORD OF THE BORGIA OF MAINE.

His Deaths by Poison Charged to Mrs. Mary Cowan—Her Death Occurs in Prison—Scene in the Village Church Yard.

REMARKABLE story of crime was closed by the death in the Maine state prison a few days ago of Mrs. Mary Cowan, a life convict.

Mrs. Cowan was either a monster of a murderer, or the victim of strange coincidences. Her maiden name was Mary Knight, and she was three times married. Her first husband was Willie Bean of Dixmont, Maine, in which town she also lived with her parents. Bean was the son of a farmer.

Soon after his marriage he conceived the desire to become a physician. Mrs. Bean encouraged her husband in this design, and also expressed the intention to study medicine herself. They had little money, and, furthermore, their three children were regarded as an obstacle to the accomplishment of their plans. One day the youngest of the children was found smothered in bed. A neighbor made the discovery, and it is said that Mrs. Bean, when informed of the fact, carelessly remarked: "Oh, I know it; the child died half an hour ago." No investigation was made, but the people of Dixmont suspected that the mother caused the child's death in order to be rid of it. Soon after the other two children, aged 2 and 3 years, died of a stomach complaint. There was suspicion whispered among the neighbors, but the deaths of the Bean children were forgotten for a time after they were laid away in the village churchyard at Plymouth.

Bean pursued his medical studies in what was known as a druidical institute, where, it was said, diplomas could be purchased for \$25 or less. The legislature regarded this concern as a fraud, and passed a law that killed it before Bean had secured his diploma, and both husband and wife then decided to attend a similar institution in Ohio, where without much study they might get diplomas. Before leaving Bean prevailed upon his parents to invest all their ready money in a farm, upon which he was to live when he returned from the west. The farm was purchased and Bean received the deed, giving to his parents a mortgage. For various reasons this mortgage was never recorded, but was kept in the house of the elder Bean.

Willis Bean and his wife then borrowed \$200 and went to the Ohio medical school. Soon afterward came a letter from Mrs. Bean saying that Willis had died suddenly, and that the doctors could not tell the cause of his death. It afterward developed that it was a stomach trouble, similar to that which caused the death of the two Bean children. Mrs. Bean came home to stay with her husband's parents, and when she had been there a few weeks it was discovered one day that the unrecorded mortgage had disappeared. Young Mrs. Bean had the deed of the farm, and so the land, bought with the elder Bean's money, was hers in law. She sold the place and all upon it, realizing about \$2,000, and the elder Bean was so much the poorer for his carelessness in not having the mortgage recorded. No one in Dixmont had any doubt that she stole the mortgage.

A short time afterward the widow Bean married George Taylor, who belonged in Dixmont and was employed in one of the Lewiston mills. Taylor was an Odd Fellow, and it was supposed that he had some insurance in that order. He soon died of the same stomach trouble that carried off the Beans, children and father. After his death the fact developed that he had not paid his dues in the Odd Fellows' lodge, so that his insurance had lapsed; but the members contributed a fund of several hundred dollars for the widow.

Taylor did not long remain a widow, but married a man named Elias Cowan, a widower with one child, Willie, aged 8 years. Cowan had deeded his farm to his wife, at whose death the property descended, by the laws of Maine, to the boy, the father having the entire income of the place until the boy attained his majority, and after that, during his lifetime, one-third of the income. One day in September, 1894, the boy died, and the cause of his death was the same stomach trouble that had affected the Beans and Taylor. This case was investigated, with the result that Mrs. Cowan was arrested upon the charge of having killed the boy with arsenic.

The body was exhumed and the stomach and intestines sent to Bowdoin college for analysis. The chemists reported that the stomach contained enough arsenic to kill an ox. Mrs. Cowan was convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced in February, 1895, to a life term at Thomaston. It was later learned that previous to the death of the boy, Elias Cowan, the father, was ill with the same kind of stomach trouble, and that at that time

the children was found smothered in bed. A neighbor made the discovery, and it is said that Mrs. Bean, when informed of the fact, carelessly remarked: "Oh, I know it; the child died half an hour ago." No investigation was made, but the people of Dixmont suspected that the mother caused the child's death in order to be rid of it. Soon after the other two children, aged 2 and 3 years, died of a stomach complaint. There was suspicion whispered among the neighbors, but the deaths of the Bean children were forgotten for a time after they were laid away in the village churchyard at Plymouth.

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LIKES CONJUGAL YOKE

AND THEREFORE USES DIVORCE COURT OFTEN.

Mrs. Sweeney's Peculiar Delight—Michigan Woman Who Holds the Record for Separations—A Matrimonial Tangle.

THE matrimonial experience of Mrs. Mary Sweeney of Buchanan, Mich., who a few weeks ago began a divorce suit against her husband, George Sweeney, now serving a fifteen-year sentence in Jackson penitentiary for attempted murder, is most extraordinary.

This remarkable woman, who has not yet reached her fortieth year, has been married five times, twice to two of her husbands and once to the third. She has figured in three divorce suits and is now venturing into the fourth. She is the mother of three daughters, one by each of her husbands, each daughter being a half sister to the others. Not content with this wonderful record, the subject of this sketch was married for the first time when she was 14 years of age, and became a mother at 15. Her daughter followed in the mother's footsteps, marrying when she was 16 years old and becoming a mother at 17, making Mrs. Sweeney a grandmother before she had completed her thirtieth year. Mrs. Sweeney was originally Mary Macbeth of Buchanan, a member of a respectable family. At the age of 14, against her parents' will, she married George Sweeney. One year of married life with her husband sufficed for her, and after her daughter was born she left him. A few years later she procured a divorce and married Albert Sherwood. Another daughter was born to them and she lived three years with her second husband. They parted and Sherwood went to California, where he was shot and killed in a saloon brawl. Mrs. Sweeney Sherwood remained single two years and George Thompson won her heart. A third daughter was born. Not two years of their married life elapsed before Thompson was sentenced to Jackson penitentiary for a year for evil doing. During his absence his wife secured a divorce, but after his release he came back and the couple were remarried. In the course of a couple of years Mrs. Sweeney became tired of Thompson and procured another divorce in Illinois and returned to her old home in Buchanan. George Sweeney, her first husband, appeared on the scene and married Mrs. Sweeney Sherwood Thompson the second time. Three years ago Sweeney attempted to kill his son-in-law, August Vetter, in order, it is alleged, to get \$2,000 insurance money which Vetter had made out to Mrs. Sweeney. He pleaded guilty and was given a fifteen-year sentence. Mrs. Sweeney went to Benton Harbor, and a few months ago Thompson, her second husband, to whom she was married twice and divorced from twice, began courting her for the third time, and she immediately began proceedings for a divorce from Sweeney, with the intention, it is said, of marrying Thompson for the third time.

John Kennedy, a 17-year-old boy of Knoxville, Tenn., fatally shot May Peck, his 15-year-old sweetheart. He then committed suicide by shooting himself through the head. He called at the girl's house and repented to her for going with another boy. The girl made an unsatisfactory answer. The families are prominent.

A Danger to Be Considered.

"My boy, said the man of ideal temperament, 'if you want to become a master of your profession, you must study; study day and night.' 'Yes,' replied the energetic youth, 'and while I'm away off in a corner studying some other man will be hustling around getting all the business.'—Washington Star.

THE KHALIFA'S GALLOWES.

Have read the accounts of Father Oberwiler or of Slatin will remember the terrible frequency with which the gallows were employed. The gallows were viewed by the English troops in their recent campaign.

The facilities for inland transportation are so limited in Brazil that the inhabitants of the ports find it cheaper to import grain from North America than from their own farms.

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BIG FOUR GIANT LOCOMOTIVES

The Big Four railroad has recently received from the builders four 8-wheel passenger locomotives to haul their fast trains. These engines are, in every respect, models of their kind, and are probably the largest, fastest, most powerful and best looking passenger engines in any part of the country, and are a credit to the management and their designer, Mr. Wm. Garstang, superintendent of motive power of the Big Four and the Schenectady Locomotive Works, their builders. The engines are now in service between St. Louis and Cleveland, on the fastest and heaviest trains, making the time and doing it easier than was ever accomplished before on this run. In designing these engines it was necessary to make a machine combining great power with high speed and easy running avoiding all jerk to the train, an unnecessary strain on the track. This has been accomplished to such an extent that both engine and tender, while at the highest speed, ride with the greatest steadiness and so soft and easy a motion that the engineers claim not to be at all tired at the end of their run. These noble machines stand 15 feet high from top of rail to top of cab and 9 feet 9 1/2 inches to center of boiler, which, with driving wheels 75 inches and truck and tender wheels 36 inches in diameter, show trim and powerful, without an

unnecessary pipe or rod to mar their symmetry. The material used in the construction of these machines is the finest of its kind, and the greatest care was exercised in both the tests and workmanship to insure every part being perfect. The driving wheel centers, steam chest and covers, cylinder heads, foot plates, auxiliary dome, driving boxes and spring seats are all of cast steel, while the dome castings stack base, boiler front, cylinder castings and tender truck frames are pressed steel. The boiler is extended

wagon top with taper back, 62 inches diameter at smallest ring and 78 inches diameter at the throat built to carry a wagon pressure of 200 pounds per square inch. Among the special articles are Richardson's balance valves, Jerome metallic packing, Coale muffer, Kunkle open spout, air operated bell ringer, French springs, Leach pneumatic sanding device, gold steam heat, monitor injector, Jannay couplers and Fox pressed steel tender truck frames. Some of the principal dimensions are as follows: Weight 130,000 pounds; cylinders 20x26 inches; boiler diameter 62 inches; tubes diameter 2 inches; tubes number of 320; fire box width 41 inches; fire box length 108 inches; working pressure 200 pounds; heating tender water capacity 5,000 gallons; tender coal capacity 10 tons; tender trucks, pressed steel.

ONE OF THE NEW LOCOMOTIVES.

The President's Slight Mistake.

An old writer tells us that "To err is human," and he struck a weak spot in man's make-up when he wrote that truth. A few months ago, in one of Maine's county seats, a lawyer and a clergyman were chatting together. In the course of conversation the subject of mistakes and miscalculations came up.

"Do you ever make mistakes?" asked the minister of the lawyer.

"Why, yes, sometimes," was the answer. "I suppose you rectify them, don't you?" inquired the clergyman.

"Not always. If it's a large mistake I correct it, but if it's a small one I let it go. How about yourself, Brother B—I suppose you sometimes make mistakes?"

"Oh, yes, sometimes," answered the minister, "but I treat them just as you do. For instance, in my sermon a few Sundays ago, I said 'The devil is the father of all lawyers,' but it was such a slight mistake that I let it go."

They Are Reliable.

The American Farmer is sincere in what it says and whenever it endorses an article, be it machinery, proprietary medicine, or a man individually, we want our readers to believe that what we say is true. For a year or more there have been endorsements of the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Company, of 167 Dearborn street, Chicago, by this paper. People have written us to know if this company is reliable, and if its remarkable remedies, for the cure of rheumatism, neuralgia, dyspepsia, catarrh, kidney troubles, etc., really had merit. We have therefore been at extra pains to investigate, and once again we add emphasis to our former endorsement of that company. There may be isolated cases here and there, which, probably through neglect in following directions, or from exposure or some unexplainable reason, the wonderful Five Drops remedy does not do the work. But it is a case where the exception proves the rule. Mr. Swanson is a gentleman of character and personal integrity, and, we believe, would no more attempt to deceive the public than the writer of this article. They still offer to send a sample bottle of "Five Drops" for 25c or a large bottle, 500 doses, for \$1, prepaid by mail or express. Address as above.

Vermont's Foreigners.

Senator Morrill says Vermont has the smallest foreign population of any state in the Union, the total being only 9,800, all told, most of them Irish, and nearly all vote the Democratic ticket. The Democratic state committee for governor at the last election bore the name of Maloney. The chairman of the Democratic state committee was Fitzpatrick, and the Democratic candidates for Congress were MacMahon and Fitzgerald. The senator knows of one town where there are only two foreigners. Both of them are Irish; one is a mayor and the other is chief of police.

The Diplomat and Gold Medal.

Were awarded to the Chicago Scale Company of Chicago, Ill., at the Omaha exposition for the best stock and hay scales over all first-class makes, no cheap scales were considered. This company sells more scales than any other, and their prices are lower than those of any reliable scale. They also handle hundreds of useful specialties for farmers and others. They send catalogue free.

England's Health Laws.

A sanitary congress and exhibition has just been held at London, England, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the enactment of municipal sanitary laws, for it was in 1848 that the first public health act was passed by the British Parliament. It was an epoch in English history. It marks the beginning of the improvement of the condition of the working classes. Since that date the average death rate has been diminished 30 per cent. in the United Kingdom.

A catalogue of 300 prizes, suitable to every taste and condition, mailed on inquiry. Prizes given for saving Diamond "C" Soap wrappers. Address Cudahy Soap Works, South Omaha, Neb. The list contains many reasonable and suitable holiday gifts.

The President's Mail.

The President receives an average of 1,000 letters a day. Some of them are favors of one kind or another. The other half offer advice on every subject under the sun, or express their approval or disapproval of executive acts and policy. What now the question of expediency suggests the topic for most of the letters, and 10 per cent. of them approve it.

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A ROUGH RIDER'S STORY.

How the Spanish Sharpshooter Fell Victim to Justice and Christianity.

One spot there was in the rough rider camp where you could always find a curious group, visitors and listeners. This was about Juan's cage. Juan being a mountain lion, one of the regimentals. To watch Juan snarl and show his white teeth; to admire the daring of his tamer, the one rough rider whose touch was playful and otherwise displayed his mastery; to see her welcome poor little frowzy Cub, the regimental fellovy dog, and put him with her paws and show that she loved him, that was the group who grew tame for the followers of Colonel Roosevelt. writes Cleveland Moffat in Leslie's Weekly. "This group was morning that I met 'Happy Jack,' and for an hour or more thereafter I enjoyed the picturesque of his talk. 'Happy Jack' is a product of Arizona. In times of peace he solves the ground for precious metal and breaks the monotony of things by playing fancy tricks with the paint and the evidence of his presence over the village of frontier towns. He does all things with a dash and a light, and it is not on record that he ever missed a shot, or a sharpshooter. He is a shaven young man of about 30. He speaks English like anybody else, dialect writers to the contrary notwithstanding. 'Tell him about how you got the Spanish sharpshooter, Happy,' said one of the group."

"Yes," said I, "tell me about the Spanish sharpshooter." Without further urging "Happy Jack" took the center of the stage and proceeded thus: "It was on the great day when pretty much everything happened down there—the lot of July—and I had just gone back from the firing line a few hundred yards to carry a wounded comrade out of danger. But it looked as if I'd done the wrong thing, for just as I came up to where some doctors and nurses were, a bullet whizzed over my head and went into a gentleman behind me. I was just thinking what a lot of life there was in that spot, but when I came another bullet whizzed over my head and landed in a tree."

"That's no open bank," said I; "there's a bad getting a range on me." "It's a Spanish sharpshooter," said I, "and I'm not a doctor or a nurse, but I'm a rough rider. I got down on the